

I T A L Y
Statement by Ambassador Maria Assunta Accili
Head of the Italian Delegation to
the 17th Session of UNIDO General Conference
Vienna, 27 November - 1 December 2017

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Thank you, Madam President,

allow me to begin by expressing the deepest and most sincere condolences to Egypt and to all Egyptians for the heinous terrorist attack that hit a Sufi Mosque last week. Madame President, we have gathered here to discuss development issues and this is the perfect occasion to acknowledge that only the eradication of the root causes of poverty and disparity can bring about peace and respect for all the people of the world.

Madam President,

I would like to join the others in wishing Director General Li a successful second mandate. Italy looks forward to keep working with the Director General, the Secretariat, all the Member States and the international community to build up a more prosperous and sustainable world.

The statement delivered by the distinguished Representative of the European Union fully reflects the Italian views on the items on the agenda. Nonetheless, I would like to add a few remarks in my national perspective.

Madam President,

Italy has a longstanding partnership with UNIDO, given its prominent role in the fight against poverty, unemployment and environmental degradation, within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Lima Declaration.

Italy is the largest bilateral donor to UNIDO, and third largest donor overall. We are currently the fourth largest contributor to the Regular Budget of the Organization.

In terms of voluntary contributions, since 2006 we have granted an overall amount of more than 100 million US dollars to UNIDO. And I am pleased to remark that our support continues to be significant: in 2017 we have allocated almost 9 million US dollars to fund UNIDO's activities in North and Sub-Saharan Africa, Middle East and South East Asia.

Madam President,

As a founding member of this Organization, Italy has constantly participated in it the work of its policy-making organs and it has presented its candidature to the Program and Budget Committee of UNIDO also for the next biennium.

We are pleased that with the consensual decision on the budget for the biennium 2018 – 2019 taken by the JDB.

We welcome the establishment of the Informal Working Group as a way to further engage in a constructive dialogue on PBC related issues, such as the amendment to the Financial Regulation governing the unutilized balances of appropriations.

We welcome the proposed Medium-Term Programme Framework 2018 - 2021 and we support the objectives to scale up and integrate the Organization's core functions and strategic priorities, including the new priority "Knowledge and Institutions", in line with the recommendations of the Independent Thematic Evaluation on UNIDO's Partnerships with Donors, to which Italy contributed as a case study funding partner.

Against this backdrop, we are confident that the Organization will be able to preserve and to further enhance its impact-oriented activity and we encourage the Organization in all its efforts in this direction. We are also confident that UNIDO will strengthen its ability to adapt to the evolving international context, and to comply with the undergoing reform of the UN System.

Madam President,

As highlighted during the sixth Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development Forum, Italy appreciates the implementation of the Programme for Country Partnership in Ethiopia to which we contribute. We fully support the approach aimed at increasing the ownership of beneficiary Countries and establishing partnerships with other International Organizations, including all pertinent UN bodies and International Financial Institutions, and the private sector.

We take this opportunity to stress the importance of close consultations with Member States, namely on the process of mainstreaming the PCPs, with a view to advancing further transparency, efficiency and effectiveness in the Organization. We therefore look forward to receiving the final Report of the Independent mid-term evaluation of UNIDO's PCP and discussing findings and recommendations together with the Organization and all the Member States, in order to adjust accordingly and improve the present and future PCPs.

Thank you, Madam President.